



Sheriff Troy J. Knudson
ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Barbara J. Tillman, Chief Deputy



Erik D. Chellevoid
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MEDIA RELEASE

EXTREME COLD TEMPS TO IMPACT ROCK COUNTY

For Immediate Release

January 28, 2019

Contact Person

Sergeant Kohler
(608) 290-6135

The National Weather Service has issued a **Wind Chill Advisory** for Rock County, beginning Tuesday at 4:00 am. The Wind Chill Advisory will escalate to a **Wind Chill Warning** on Tuesday at 6:00 pm and continue until Thursday, January 31 at 12:00 pm. In addition to the extreme temperatures, citizens should prepare for blowing and drifting snow that will continue to impact already hazardous travel conditions.

As we prepare for these dangerous temperatures and wind chills, the Rock County Sheriff's Office reminds citizens to take extra precautions, including:

- Limit your time outdoors. If you must be outside, dress for the weather. Wear loose-fitting layers, a hat, gloves and snow boots. Make sure you have a scarf or some other way to cover your face.
- Know the signs of hypothermia, which include excessive shivering, exhaustion, confusion, and slurred speech. If you or anyone around you begins to show symptoms, call 911 immediately.
- Know the signs of frostbite, which include a white or grayish-yellow skin area, skin that feels unusually firm or waxy, and numbness. If you detect symptoms, get to a warm area. Do not try to rub them, as it can cause more damage.
- Check the supplies in your home and vehicle emergency kits. If food items or batteries have expired or run low, replace them.
- Test the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors around your home. If you can't remember the last time you changed the batteries, replace them.
- Check your furnace to make sure it is working properly. If you rely on heating oil or propane, make sure you have enough to last through the current period of cold temperatures and schedule a delivery before you start to run low.
- Do not attempt to use gasoline or propane heaters or a grill to heat your home or garage. Those devices produce carbon monoxide, which could be deadly in enclosed areas.
- Prepare your vehicle for the possible effects of the cold weather. Keep the gas tank at least half-full. Pack an emergency kit with items such as food, water, extra blankets and warm clothing, booster cables, and a cell phone charger.

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- Make sure water pipes in unheated areas are properly insulated. If you have faucets served by exposed pipes, let water drip from them or run at a slow trickle to prevent freezing. Open kitchen and bathroom cabinets to allow heat to get to the pipes.
- If you have pets, limit their time outdoors. Dogs and cats can get frost-bitten ears, nose and feet if left outside during bitter cold weather. For livestock, make sure they have access to extra food and a water source that will not freeze over. Outdoor animals need access to a dry place to seek shelter. Help provide a windbreak for larger animals and an enclosed space for smaller animals to help them retain their body heat.

Winter Warming Centers and Shelter Information

For those seeking shelter from the cold temperatures, several local organizations in the area have announced participation as warming centers. These organizations are designated daytime warming centers through the winter season.

Please see the attached warming centers and shelters for more information. Due to the extreme temperatures, some businesses may close in emergency situations.

For organizations that would like to participate as shelters or warming centers, you are encouraged to notify the Rock County Sheriff's Office – Emergency Management Bureau at 608-758-8403.

For more winter safety tips, please visit <https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/>

SHERIFF TROY J. KNUDSON

By: Sergeant S. Kohler

Attachment: Warming Centers in Rock County